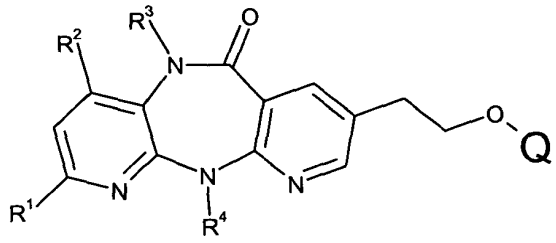
CLAIMS

1. A compound represented by formula I:



(I)

wherein

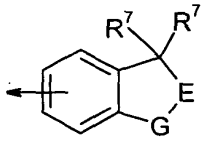
$\mathbf{R^1}$ is selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, (C_{1-4})alkyl, $O(C_{1-6})$alkyl, and haloalkyl;

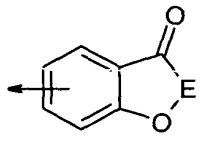
$\mathbf{R_2}$ is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl;

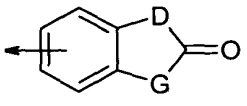
$\mathbf{R^3}$ is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl;

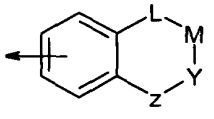
$\mathbf{R^4}$ is (C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{1-4})alkyl(C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl; and

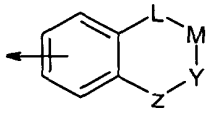
Q is a fused phenyl-5 or 6-membered saturated heterocycle having one to two heteroatoms selected from O and N, said **Q** is selected from the group consisting of:

a)  wherein one of **E** and **G** is C(O) and the other is NR^5 wherein $\mathbf{R^5}$ is selected from the group consisting of H, hydroxy and (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with pyridinylmethyl, (pyridinyl-N-oxide)methyl or $C(O)OR^6$ wherein $\mathbf{R^6}$ is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; and each $\mathbf{R^7}$ is independently H, Me or Et; or

b)  wherein **E** is NR^8 wherein $\mathbf{R^8}$ is H, (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with $C(O)OR^9$ wherein $\mathbf{R^9}$ is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; or

c)  wherein **D** and **G** are NR^{10} wherein each R^{10} is independently H or (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with $C(O)OR^{11}$ wherein R^{11} is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; or

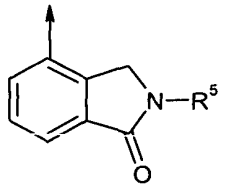
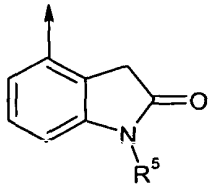
d)  wherein one of **L, M, Y** and **Z** is NR^{12} wherein R^{12} is H, (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with $C(O)OR^{12x}$ wherein R^{12x} is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; one of the remaining positions of **L, M, Y** and **Z** adjoining the NR^{12} is C(O); and the remaining two positions are each $CR^{13}R^{13}$ wherein each R^{13} is independently H, Me or Et; or

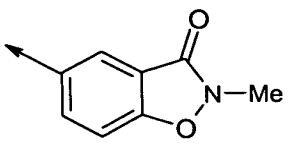
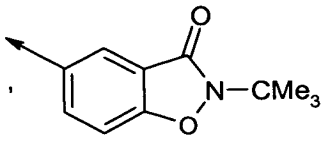
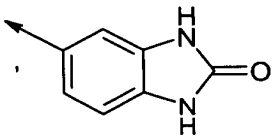
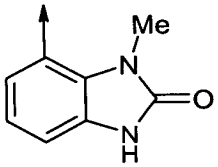
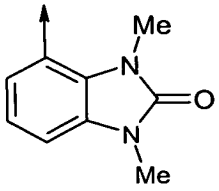
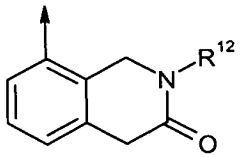
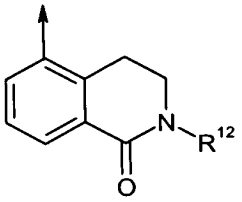
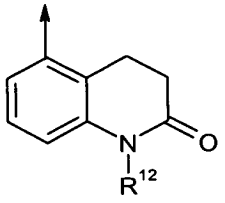
e)  wherein three adjoining positions of **L, M, Y** and **Z** (namely **L-M-Y** or **M-Y-Z**) represent NR^{14}-C(O)-O- or $-NR^{15}$-C(O)-NR^{16} – wherein R^{14}, R^{15} and R^{16} each represents H or (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with $C(O)OR^{17}$ wherein R^{17} is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; and the remaining position of **L**, or **Z** is $CR^{18}R^{18}$ wherein each R^{18} is H, Me or Et;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or prodrug thereof.

2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is selected from: H, Cl, F, (C_{1-4})alkyl and CF_3; R^2 and R^3 is each independently H or Me; R^4 is ethyl or cyclopropyl; and

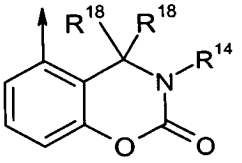
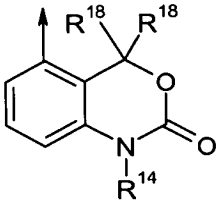
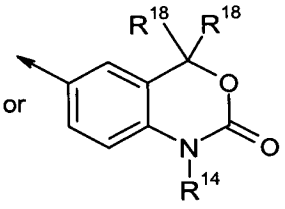
Q is selected from:

 or  wherein R^5 is H, hydroxy, CH_3 or (4-pyridinyl)methyl;

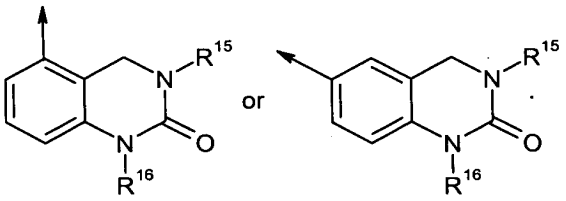
wherein $\mathbf{R}^{12}$ is H, Me or $CH_2C(O)OH$,

or **Q** is further selected from:

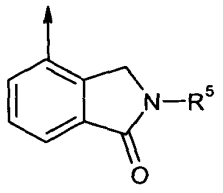
wherein $\mathbf{R}^{14}$ is H, Me or $CH_2C(O)OH$ and each $\mathbf{R}^{18}$ is independently H or Me. More preferably, $\mathbf{R}^{14}$ is H or $CH_2C(O)OH$ and each $\mathbf{R}^{18}$ is H,

or

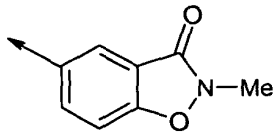
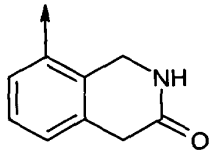
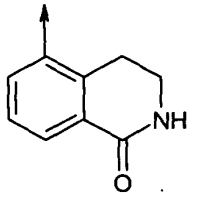


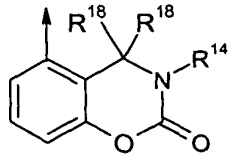
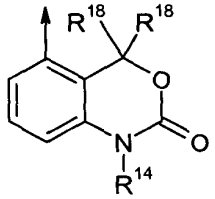
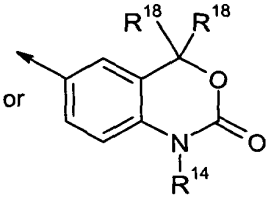
wherein $\mathbf{R}^{15}$ is H, Me or $CH_2C(O)OH$ and $\mathbf{R}^{16}$ is H, Me or $CH_2C(O)OH$. More preferably, $\mathbf{R}^{15}$ is H or CH_3 and $\mathbf{R}^{16}$ is H, CH_3 or CH_2 C(O)OH.

3. The compound according to claim 2, wherein $\mathbf{R}^1$ is H, Cl, F or Me; $\mathbf{R}^2$ is H; $\mathbf{R}^3$ is Me; $\mathbf{R}^4$ is ethyl; and **Q** is selected from:



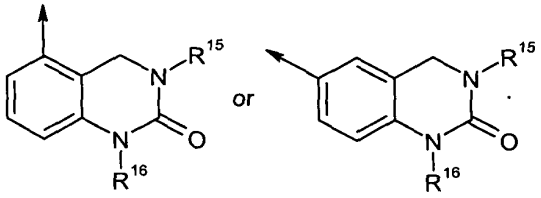
wherein $\mathbf{R}^5$ is H, hydroxy or (4-pyridinyl)methyl;



or




or


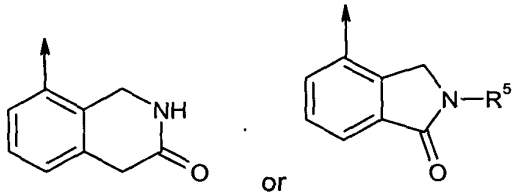
wherein $\mathbf{R}^{14}$ is H or $CH_2C(O)OH$ and each $\mathbf{R}^{18}$ is H,

or

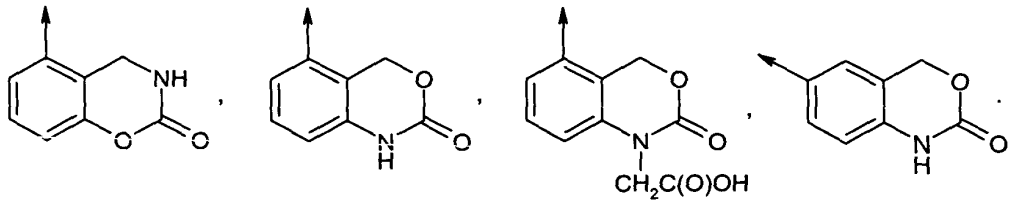


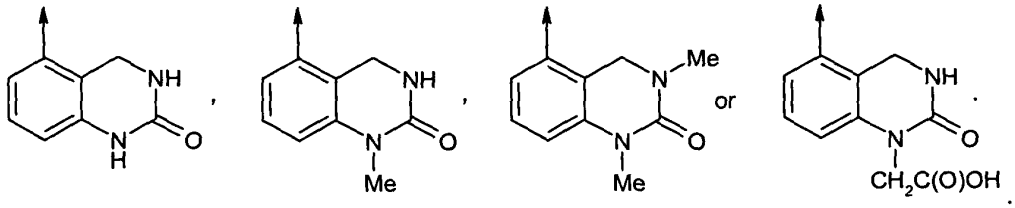
wherein $\mathbf{R}^{15}$ is H or CH_3 and $\mathbf{R}^{16}$ is H, CH_3 or CH_2 C(O)OH.

4. The compound according to claim 3, wherein **Q** is selected from:

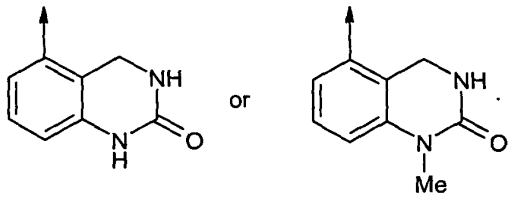


or wherein $\mathbf{R}^5$ is H or hydroxy,





5. The compound according to claim 4, wherein $\mathbf{R^1}$ is H, $\mathbf{R^2}$ is H, $\mathbf{R^3}$ is Me, $\mathbf{R^4}$ is ethyl and **Q** is selected from:



6. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of HIV infection, comprising a compound of formula I according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or prodrug thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

7. A method for the treatment or prevention of HIV infection, comprising administering to a patient an HIV inhibiting amount of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or prodrug thereof.

8. A method for the treatment or prevention of HIV infection, comprising administering to a patient an HIV inhibiting amount of a pharmaceutical composition, according to claim 6.

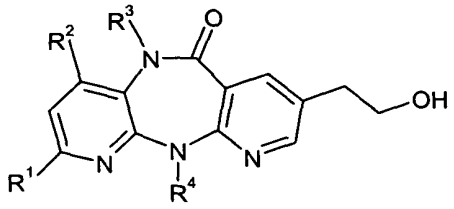
9. A method for treating or preventing HIV infection comprising administering a compound of formula I according to claim 1, in combination with an antiretroviral drug.

10. A method for preventing perinatal transmission of HIV11 from mother to baby, comprising administering a compound of formula I according to claim 1, to the mother before giving birth.

11. Use of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of HIV infection in a human.

12. A process for producing a compound of formula I according to claim 1, comprising steps of:

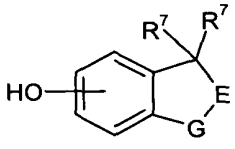
- coupling a compound of formula 2:

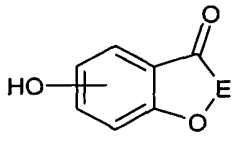


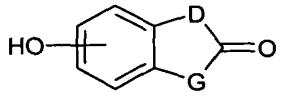
(2)

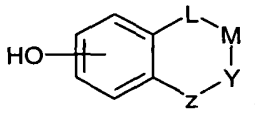
wherein $\mathbf{R^1}$, $\mathbf{R^2}$, $\mathbf{R^3}$ and $\mathbf{R^4}$ are as defined in claim 1;

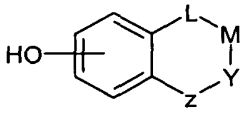
with a phenolic derivative selected from:

a)  wherein one of **E** and **G** is C(O) and the other is NR^{5A} wherein R^{5A} is a N-protecting group, hydroxy or (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with pyridylmethyl, (pyridinyl-N-oxide) methyl or $C(O)OR^{6A}$ wherein R^{6A} is a carboxy protecting group or (C_{1-4})alkyl; and each R^7 is independently H, Me or Et.

b)  wherein **E** is NR^{8A} wherein R^{8A} is a N-protecting group, (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with $C(O)OR^{9A}$ wherein R^{9A} is a carboxy protecting group or (C_{1-4})alkyl; or

c)  wherein **D** and **G** each independently is NR^{10A} wherein R^{10A} is a N-protecting group or (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with $C(O)OR^{11A}$ wherein R^{11A} is a carboxy protecting group or (C_{1-4})alkyl;

d)  wherein one of **L, M, Y** and **Z** is NR^{12A} wherein NR^{12A} is a N-protecting group, (C_{1-4})alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with $C(O)OR^{12y}$ wherein R^{12y} is a carboxy protecting group or (C_{1-4})alkyl; one of the remaining positions of **L, M, Y** and **Z** adjoining the NR^{12A} is C(O); and the remaining two positions are each $CR^{13}R^{13}$ wherein each R^{13} is independently H, Me or Et; or

e)  wherein three adjoining positions of **L, M, Y** and **Z** (namely **L-M-Y** or **M-Y-Z)** represent $-NR^{14}-C(O)-O-$ or $-NR^{15}-C(O)-NR^{16}-$ wherein R^{14}, R^{15} and R^{16} are as defined in claim 1, and the remaining position of **L** or **Z** is $CR^{18}R^{18}$ wherein each R^{18} is as defined in claim 1;

and, if required,

- removing any protective groups in a mixture of aqueous base or aqueous acid in a co-solvent, to obtain the corresponding compound of formula I.

13. The process according to claim 12, wherein said N-protecting group is selected from the group consisting of: alkyl esters; aralkyl esters; and esters that can be cleaved by mild base treatment or mild reductive means.

14. The process according to claim 12, wherein said carboxy-protecting group is selected from the group consisting of: Boc (*tert*-butyloxycarbonyl) and alkyl carbamates.

15. A pharmaceutical preparation for use in the treatment or prevention of HIV infection, wherein the active ingredient is a compound of formula 1 according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester or prodrug thereof.